

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A toner cartridge comprising an untapered region extending from near a front end to a predetermined position along a longitudinal direction of an outer circumferential portion, and a tapered region extending from the predetermined position to near a rear end.

2. A cartridge according to claim 1, wherein an inclined surface is provided at a boundary region between said untapered region and said tapered region to connect said regions.

3. A toner cartridge comprising a tapered portion extending from near a front end to near a rear end along a longitudinal direction of an outer circumferential portion, and a plurality of rib portions in the form of ribs formed on a region extending from the front end to a predetermined position to make a size of the region in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal direction uniform along the longitudinal direction.

4. A cartridge according to any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein said toner cartridge includes a toner replenishment port for replenishing toner when said cartridge is housed in a developing device, and a shutter which opens/closes the toner replenishment port, and the predetermined position is near the toner replenishment port.

5. A developing device which can house a toner cartridge having, on an outer circumferential portion, a first untapered region extending from near a front end to a predetermined position and a tapered region extending from the predetermined position to near a rear end, comprising

a toner cartridge guide inner wall which houses the toner cartridge,

said toner cartridge guide inner wall having a second untapered region in a region corresponding to the first

untapered region of the toner cartridge when the toner cartridge is housed.

6. A toner cartridge which is detachably provided in an image forming apparatus, said toner cartridge being configured to be inserted in and removed from the image forming apparatus along a longitudinal direction of said toner cartridge and having, on an outer circumference thereof, a tapered portion inclined along the longitudinal direction and an untapered portion substantially parallel to a direction to be removed.

7. A cartridge according to claim 6, further comprising, on the outer circumference, a replenishment port for replenishing toner to the image forming apparatus, and a shutter member which covers the replenishment port, said shutter member opening/closing the replenishment port when said toner cartridge is attached/detached to/from the image forming apparatus.

8. A toner cartridge exchangeably mounted in an image forming apparatus, comprising:

- a first portion which extends in a longitudinal direction, has a substantially cylindrical shape, and contains toner;

- a substantially rectangular second portion which is formed integrally with said first portion along the longitudinal direction;

- a container which has a third portion integrally formed with at least part of said first portion along the longitudinal direction;

- a toner agitating member provided on said first portion;

- a screw provided on said third portion;

- a discharge port which is formed in one end of said third portion to discharge toner conveyed by said screw;

- a lid member which opens/closes said discharge port as said toner cartridge moves relative to the image forming

apparatus when said toner cartridge is replaced;

a plurality of gears which are provided at one end of said container and outside said container to rotate said screw and said toner agitating member; and

a cap which closes one end of said container which is located opposite to a side where said plurality of gears are provided, along a longitudinal direction of said container, has a grip with which said container can be pulled out, and allows discrimination of a color and amount of toner contained in said container.

9. A cartridge according to claim 8, wherein said container has a tapered portion at least partly along the longitudinal direction.

10. A cartridge according to claim 8, wherein said container has a tapered portion inclined in the longitudinal direction, and an untapered portion.

11. A cartridge according to claim 8, further comprising an opening/closing member for opening/closing a replenishment port of the image forming apparatus.

12. A cartridge according to claim 8, wherein toner is collected to a central portion of said container along the longitudinal direction by rotation of said screw and conveyed from near the central portion toward the opening portion by said screw.